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Social development

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Promotion and protection of human rights

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Letter dated 26 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the fact that the Japanese authorities are intensifying suppression on the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) and Koreans in Japan, creating a horrific atmosphere of terror and plunging the human rights issues of Koreans in Japan into a grave situation.

The current repression on the Korean residents across the Japanese islands reminds us of the madness of hunting Koreans during the "Great Kanto Earthquake" in the 1920s and the forced dissolution of the "Association of Koreans in Japan" half a century ago.

Chongryon is a legitimate organization of overseas citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Japanese brutal oppression on it and Koreans in Japan constitutes the criminal act of infringing upon the sovereignty of a dignified Member State of the United Nations.

Now, Japan, availing itself of the reform of the United Nations, is waging extensive diplomacy for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

As is well known to everybody, the Security Council is not an organization that sells its permanent seats for the highest price. It is an extreme humiliation for the international community that such an irresponsible country as Japan is vying for a permanent seat, while declining to part with the bloodstained past and turning the whole society into the right with a view to militarize the country.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress the need for all Member States of the United Nations to comprehend more accurately the dual attitude of Japan and



firmly defend justice in deliberations of such important matters as the enlargement of the Security Council and human rights issues of developing countries.

To help Member States understand recent anti-Democratic People's Republic of Korea moves of Japan, I enclose herewith the statement of the Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 19 February 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 60, 65, 67 and 111 of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) **Pak Gil Yon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 26 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Japanese authorities' noisy racket of suppressing Chongryon and Koreans in Japan has reached an extremely grave phase recently.

This crackdown upon the Chongryon organization got more reckless with their search operations against the Tokyo metropolitan headquarters of Chongryon and the Niigata Agency of the Office for Visits of Koreans to Their Homeland late in November last year as a momentum, and it has gotten more brutal since the outset of the year.

The Japanese public security authorities mobilized hundred of heavily armed policemen and even armed vehicles more than 10 times until early in February 2007 to carry out search operations against at least 30 Chongryon-related facilities, including offices of Chongryon branches, Korean schools and houses of Koreans, and perpetrated a series of such outrageous acts as assaulting and arresting them for no reason.

The Japanese authorities, at the same time, set in motion reptile media to float various kinds of false reports aimed at tarnishing the image of Chongryon in a bid to frantically incite bitterness towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Chongryon in society.

This has created in various parts of Japan the same terror-ridden atmosphere reminiscent of operations for hunting Koreans as that which prevailed during the Great Kanto Earthquake and triggered off again the fascist tyranny through which the Japanese reactionaries forcibly dissolved the "Association of Koreans in Japan" half a century ago.

This brutal political suppression of Chongryon, a legitimate organization of overseas citizens of the dignified Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Koreans in Japan, members of the Korean nation, is an unpardonable infringement upon the sovereignty of our country and an unprecedented crime against humanity. As far as the Koreans in Japan are concerned, they are victims who were forcibly taken to Japan in the past under the signboards of military service, forced labour, comfort women for the army, and under other pretexts where they were subjected to unlimited plunder, exploitation, slave labour and submission of their descendants. The Japanese authorities are therefore under the historic and moral obligation to protect them.

Being the descendant of a war criminal, Abe is also to blame for the above-said crimes. He should have more honestly apologized for the crimes committed against the Koreans for several generations and compensated for them more fully than any others. He, however, has taken the lead in all the criminal anti-Chongryon campaigns in a bid to destroy it during the tenure of his office. We cannot but take special note of this fact.

By becoming ever more zealous in the frantic crackdown upon Chongryon, oblivious of his position and face of being "prime minister", Abe seeks to make his

"cabinet appear hard-line" in a bid to save his short-sighted hard-line diplomacy from failure and stop his support rate from declining, and thus wrest a sort of "concession" from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It is nothing but a daydream to try to gratify his political greed in such a mean way.

The servicepersons and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will never remain a passive onlooker to the Japanese authorities' outrageous suppression of Chongryon and Koreans in Japan. The Abe group will have to pay dearly for this.
